

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 21-1815V

UNPUBLISHED

MARIA ALSIP,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: May 24, 2023

Special Processing Unit (SPU);
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Shoulder
Injury Related to Vaccine
Administration (SIRVA)

Laura Levenberg, Muller Brazil, LLP, Dresher, PA, for Petitioner.

Voris Edward Johnson, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

On September 7, 2021, Maria Alsip filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*² (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that she suffered a left shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”), a defined Table injury, after receiving the influenza (“flu”) vaccine on October 23, 2020. Petition at 1, ¶ 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On May 15, 2023, I issued a ruling on entitlement, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for her SIRVA. On May 23, 2023, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$55,570.35, representing \$55,000.00 for her pain and suffering and \$570.35 for her past unreimbursed expenses. Proffer at 1. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with

¹ Because this Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action taken in this case, it must be made publicly accessible and will be posted on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, and/or at <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/uscourts/national/cofc>, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2018) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the Decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

² National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all section references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2018).

the proffered award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **I award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$\$55,570.35, representing \$55,000.00 for her pain and suffering and \$570.35 for her actual unreimbursable expenses in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under Section 15(a).

The Clerk of Court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Brian H. Corcoran

Brian H. Corcoran
Chief Special Master

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

On May 15, 2023, the Court issued a Ruling on Entitlement finding petitioner Maria Alsip entitled to Vaccine Act compensation in this matter alleging a Shoulder Injury Related to Vaccine Administration following an influenza vaccination. Respondent, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, now proffers that petitioner receive a compensation award consisting of a lump sum of **\$55,570.35**, which amount includes \$55,000.00 for pain and suffering and \$570.35 for past unreimbursed expenses, in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Maria Alsip.¹ This amount represents compensation for all elements of compensation under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) to which petitioner is entitled.²

¹ Petitioner is a competent adult. No guardianship is required.

² Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, respondent would oppose any award for future medical expenses, future lost earnings, and future pain and suffering, and the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief.

³ This proffer does not include any award for attorneys' fees and costs that may be awarded pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(e).

Respectfully submitted,

BRIAN M. BOYNTON
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General

C. SALVATORE D’ALESSIO
Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

HEATHER L. PEARLMAN
Deputy Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

ALEXIS B. BABCOCK
Assistant Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

s/Voris E. Johnson, Jr.
VORIS E. JOHNSON, JR.
Senior Trial Attorney
Torts Branch, Civil Division
U. S. Department of Justice
P.O. Box 146, Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, D.C. 20044-0146
Direct Dial: 202-616-3667
Email: Voris.Johnson@usdoj.gov

Date: May 23, 2023